

**CLAIMS:**

1 - 29. Cancelled

30. (new) A comminuting device, comprising:

a comminution chamber having a bottom wall and a circumferential wall projecting upward from the bottom wall ,

a rotationally drivable drive shaft extending essentially orthogonal to the bottom wall and

at least one comminution element arranged adjacent to the bottom wall and capable of being set in revolving motion about the drive shaft by said shaft , and

a plurality of additional comminution elements capable of being set in revolving motion about the drive shaft by said shaft , which are disposed above the comminution element adjacent to the bottom wall,

wherein at least a portion of the circumferential wall of the comminution chamber is configured as a grating and wherein the grating is surrounded by an outer jacket ,at the lower end of which a catch device of preferably funnel-shaped configuration, is provided for comminuted material, and

characterized in that, in the circumferential wall of the comminution chamber an opening adjacent to the bottom wall and openable and closable at will is provided, which can be used as an additional discharge opening.

31. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that the grating is composed of a plurality of members that extend about vertically, and are arranged at about a predetermined distance  $d_2$  from each other.

32. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that the outer jacket has a predetermined minimum distance from the grating.
33. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that at least one circumferential segment of the outer jacket is swingably configured about an axis that extends essentially vertically.
34. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that at least one circumferential segment of the grating is swingably configured about an axis that extends essentially vertically.
35. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that a swingable circumferential segment of the grating and a swingable circumferential segment of the outer jacket form a jointly manageable unit.
36. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that the outer jacket comprises a polygonal contour shape.
37. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that at least a portion of the bottom wall is configured as a grating.
38. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that at least one comminution element, comprises a chain.
39. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that at least one comminution element comprises an impact member.
40. The comminuting device of claim 39, characterized in that the impact member is articulated to the drive shaft, and is swingable about an axis that extends about parallel to the drive shaft.

41. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that the comminution elements are arranged helically on the drive shaft so that a comminution element nearer to the bottom wall is arranged to run ahead more than a comminution element more distant from the bottom wall in the direction of revolution about the drive shaft .
42. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that the drive shaft is a hexagonal shaft.
43. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that the comminution elements are arranged on the drive shaft in planes of comminution elements, wherein the planes have about a predetermined minimum distance  $d_1$  from each other.
44. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that, between the free end of at least one of the comminution elements and the circumferential wall, a predetermined distance  $d_3$  is provided.
45. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that at least one annular attachment projecting inward from the circumferential wall is provided, wherein the annular attachment has a funnel-shaped configuration.
46. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that in the neighborhood of the upper edge of the circumferential wall, a charge opening is provided for supply of material to be comminuted.
47. The comminuting device of claim 46, characterized in that the charge opening extends from the upper edge of the circumferential wall over a predetermined distance towards the bottom wall .

48. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that, at least one plane of the uppermost plane of comminution elements and the planes of comminution elements arranged thereunder, consists a single comminution element.
49. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that at least one uppermost comminution element is configured to be shorter than the other comminution elements.
50. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that a supply passage preceding the supply opening has an angled configuration.
51. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that the drive shaft is rotatably mounted both at the bottom wall and also at a ceiling wall of the comminution chamber .
52. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that a drive motor is connected to the drive shaft by way of a belt drive .
53. The comminuting device of claim 30, characterized in that a speed of the drive shaft is between about 200 rpm and about 2,000 rpm, and an optimal speed of the drive shaft is about 500 rpm and about 1,000 rpm.
54. The comminuting device of claim 30, further comprising a connection opening for an exhaust device.